

Keith began life on the family ranch, the Bar Three, which his family started in 1876. Eventually, he took over the ranch where he raised Simmental cows and grew various crops and later began serving his fellow farmers and ranchers in 1950 when he joined the Farm Bureau. The respect he developed among his peers led to his election to the Colorado Farm Bureau Board of Directors and eventually to Bureau's presidency where Keith made positive and significant contributions to agriculture, water, and property rights. Guided by his character and common sense, he fought hard for what he believed in and also generously donated his time to the community through his role as a 4-H leader, Sunday school teacher, and youth group leader. I truly admired Keith for his willingness to stand up for the West, stand up for Colorado, and defend the Nation's farmers and ranchers, the stewards of America's bounty.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Keith pursued a course of honor and distinction and I am truly honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation and recognize Keith's life and achievements. His dedication to family, friends, and the causes he championed deserves more than our recognition; it deserves our admiration. At this time of great loss, my thoughts and prayers are with Keith's family and friends. We will miss you Keith.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY T.  
WIESE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to honor Larry Wiese of Mesa Verde, Colorado. Larry is the Superintendent of Mesa Verde National Park and I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to his leadership, dedication and service to the community before this body of Congress and this nation.

Larry's leadership abilities allowed him to make many key fire management decisions which contributed to the timely and proactive measures that saved our forests. In 2001, Larry approved an emergency aspect for the Chapin Boundary Fuel Break due to seasonal severity, and prevented the fire from spreading to the headquarters area of Mesa Verde National Park. Additionally, he directed fire operations to develop Park Evacuation Plan and performed monthly drills in 2002 before Long Mesa Fire, while insisting that division chiefs provide input to this plan to enable it to be more successful.

Larry also reviewed and created weekly business oversight review for Fire Program Severity expenditures in 2002 season. He approved partial park closure, restricting public access to lower Chapin Mesa due to extreme fire danger and public safety considerations. In order to provide more safety for park visitors, Larry approved construction of a 12-acre safety zone near headquarters for fire fighter and public safety.

During many fire suppression operations, Larry was an active participant. He attended briefings and communicated park priorities such as public and fire fighter safety and the protection of cultural and historical resources.

Larry has proven instrumental in the efforts to protect Mesa Verde National Park. While on the job, he has responded proactively to severe environmental threats. He also has provided leadership and direction to park staff and fire operations throughout the most severe fire season in recorded history.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this body of Congress and this great nation to recognize the honorable leadership of Larry Wiese. His proactive steps made the difference in providing for visitor and staff safety, in addition to preserving the cultural, historic, and natural resources we are responsible to protect. Larry's contributions have greatly benefited the people of his community and I am honored to have this opportunity to represent such a fine Coloradan. I wish Larry the best of luck with all of his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BLOOMFIELD  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the City of Bloomfield Fire Department based in New Mexico for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Bloomfield Fire Department played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado, and today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of the Durango community called upon the Bloomfield Fire Department to protect their loved ones, homes, and property from what would become the worst fire in the area's history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens everyday. The Bloomfield Fire Department contributed 1400 man-hours as they worked for 14 days straight to contain the fire, relying on 35 firefighters, mostly volunteer. Additionally, the community of Bloomfield donated more than 16,000 pounds of supplies to those who were working to contain the Missionary Ridge Fire.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Bloomfield Fire Department before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the brave volunteer firefighters and their support staff for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of this and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and I am honored to pay tribute to their dedication and commitment to their neighbors in Colorado.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRED W.  
KLATT III

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fred W. Klatt III of Durango, Colorado. Mr. Klatt has been a dedicated citizen and leader of the Durango community for over 18 years, and it is my honor to pay tribute to his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Fred began his career in public office when he was elected to the Durango City Council in 1984, and was elected Mayor in 1987. Following his service to the city, Fred was elected La Plata County Commissioner in 1990, and served the county for over twelve years. While in office, Fred also dedicated his time to several civic boards within the community, including San Juan Forum, La Plata County Humane Society, Durango Area Chamber Resort Association, Durango Library Board and the Durango/La Plata County Airport Commission.

Fred has also been active in Durango's business community where he was the proud owner of Klatt Travel, a local travel agency. Utilizing his service as a County Commissioner and a small business owner, Fred paid special attention to the concerns of small business owners and worked tirelessly in advocating the minimization of government, reducing costs and becoming fiscally efficient to create a stronger county government. For his significant contributions and endeavors within the community, Fred was recognized in 2002 as Durango's Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I commend Mr. Fred Klatt before this body of Congress and this great nation for his dedication to and leadership of La Plata County and the City of Durango. His contributions have greatly benefited the people of his community and I am honored to have this opportunity to represent such a fine Coloradan. I wish Fred the best of luck with all of his future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE  
STATE OF OHIO

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,  
Whereas, the people of Ohio are commemorating Ohio's 200th Birthday on March 1, 2003; and

Whereas, they will be celebrating the Bicentennial in Chillicothe, the original capital of the great state of Ohio; and

Whereas, the residents of Ohio have molded a strong tradition of family values and a commitment to a high standard of living for Two-Hundred Years; and

Whereas, Ohio, since its inception, has developed into a growing and prosperous community dedicated to its past and future generations;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the 18th Congressional District and all of Ohio in celebrating the Ohio Bicentennial.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEON EVANS, IN  
MEMORIAM

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Mr. Leon Evans who passed away Thursday, February 20, 2003 in Neptune, New Jersey. Mr. Evans was a dedicated, loving man and will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Leon Evans was born on December 29, 1936 to the late Leroy and Virginia Evans in Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Evans is a man who recognized the value of education early on in life. First attending school in Little Rock, Arkansas, he continued his education at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces in New Mexico. Later, Mr. Evans furthered his studies at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mr. Evans paid tribute to his county by serving in the United States Army from 1955 until his retirement on September 1, 1975. While in the Army, Mr. Evans was an instructor and fundamental Branch Supervisor at the U.S. Army Signal School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

After Mr. Evans distinguished service in the United States Army he worked at Siemens Communication Systems Inc. Transmission Systems in Mount Laurel, New Jersey and Iselin, New Jersey from 1976 to 1984.

Mr. Evans was self-employed from 1984 through 1987 operating a communications

service company. He later worked at Check-Mate Inc., where he provided his services to the Monmouth County area until his death.

In addition to his work ethic, Mr. Evans possessed a strong sense of community as exhibited by the various community memberships he held. Mr. Evan's was a member of Neptune's VFW Post #2639 and American Legion Post #266. He also served on the Democratic and Environmental Committees for Neptune Township and was a member of the Optimistic Social Club and the Over the Hill Gang.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Evans for his loving devotion to his family. He was married to his beloved wife, Wanda for 47 years. Together they raised five wonderful children, and enjoyed spending time with their seven grandchildren and great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Evans had many friends and colleagues who affectionately knew him as hard working, dedicated, patriotic, and a civic-minded individual. His friends and family greatly enjoyed his company and will sorely miss him. On this day, I ask my fellow colleagues to join with me in honoring and remembering this extraordinary individual.

PANTHEON OF BLACK HEROES

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 2003*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I rise to introduce a se-

ries of bills—a Pantheon of Black Heroes—recognizing the historic achievements and contributions of African Americans. Several of these heroes resided and worked in the Harlem area, while others inspired or lent inspiration to our community.

The Pantheon of Black Heroes is part of my continuing effort, begun years ago, to officially recognize some of America's best and brightest. Black History Month presents us with another opportunity to highlight the achievements of these men and women. It is our opportunity to ensure that our stories are told as we have lived them, and as we would have them handed down to those who follow us.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in recognizing the vast contributions of these great African Americans.

Arthur Ashe, Ralph Bunche, Roy Campanella, Shirley Chisholm, Katherine Dunham, Marcus Garvey, Althea Gibson, Lionel Hampton, Dorothy Height, Zora Neale Hurston, Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Adam Clayton Power, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Sugar Ray Robinson, Arthur Schomburg, Betty Shabazz, Madame C.J. Walker, James L. Watson, and Malcolm X.